

# CUSD/CCHD/CCSD

## NEWSLETTER

**As our community enters the New Year and Decade ahead, we hope our mutual contributions to this newsletter will both inform and inspire the citizens of Cambria to become more involved in creating the future of this special town we are blessed to call home.**

*Iggy Fedoroff*

*Harry Farmer*

*Sam Shalhoub*

## CCHD UPDATE

One of the Healthcare District's foremost goals last year was to bring fiscal discipline to the CCHD. I'm pleased to report that the deficit spending has stopped due to the concerted efforts of our entire administrative and operational team.

- We are now making regular contributions to our Local Agency to build up a balance capable of handling emergency as well as planned purchases of a capital nature.
- We officially opened our **Cambria Community Healthcare District Trust** account and deposited our first substantial donation.

As the trust fund accumulates capital, the District will be able to make needed investments in capital equipment and facilities. Individuals and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to donate to this IRS 501(c)(3) trust knowing that their contributions will help ensure the high quality of care we provide and support the District's commitment to recruiting needed healthcare services.

- We have begun transitioning our billing for emergency services from an outside firm to in-house billing in the first week of April. Once that system is in place, all billing questions for services performed on or after April 1st should be directed to Simone Rathbun or, in her absence, Mike McDonough. We believe our customers will appreciate the more personal and flexible service offered by our in-house billing staff.
- Some of you may have noticed that we have a new parking lot which provides additional ADA parking and will serve us for years to come.
- We have made some improvements to crew facilities by beefing up the electrical system to make the crew kitchen more user friendly as well as installing a new telephone system that will assure better non-emergency communication with the public as well as simplified communication internally with our ambulance crews.

- The District is applying for grants to acquire capital equipment to replace that which is nearing the end of its expected life. In addition, the District has begun the process of generating a strategic plan to uphold the CCHD mission to improve the health of our district residents by providing emergency services, enhancing access to care, and promoting wellness. During this planning we expect to identify goals and then time-phase implementation.
- Our ambulance crews will be offering first aid training to employees of all hospitality businesses in our district to include: Heimlich Maneuver, Stop the Bleed and Hands-only CPR. There will be no charge for these 30-minute sessions. Contact Tim Benes or Mike McDonough to schedule training. We will also be offering a new series of fall prevention classes starting April 13 at the Old Grammar School Board Room. Call 805.927.8304 to sign up for either of these opportunities.
- **Finally, we urge all District residents to call 911 at the first sign of health issues they think may result in calling for an ambulance. MINUTES COUNT.**

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## CUSD UPDATE

No update this period.

## CCSD UPDATE

The New Year/Decade has begun on a mostly positive note at the Cambria CSD. First, it is our good fortune to have hired Mr. Ray Dienzo to fill our long vacant position of Utilities Manager. Ray has decades of experience in the areas of Water and Wastewater and was recently an Engineering Supervisor for the SLO County Department of Public Works. Since 2008, he has been an adjunct instructor at Cuesta College. Ray has an true affection for our town, as he and his wife were married here, and he defines Cambria as, "the Jewel of the Central Coast". Welcome aboard, Ray!!

As a result of the initiative and diligence of our Wastewater Chief Plant Operator John Allchin, the District recently purchased a much needed new Vactor Truck at far less cost than anticipated. Almost immediately it was used in an emergency and ultimately helped save both staff time and cost in resolving the problem. The Truck will be used both at the sewer plant as well as out on the streets of our community on an almost daily basis and will provide excellent service for at least the next 20 years. This addition has been a real morale booster to W/W staff, and is where some of the rate

increase monies from our town residents has been put to good use, so thank you so much!!

The long time effort at partnering with PG&E to do major equipment improvements and upgrades at our Wastewater Plant, as well as addressing Water Department needs, is now moving forward. A meeting on February 27th brought together staff from our CCSD and the many engineering consultants who will be involved in the transformative changes that will take place in the coming years at our W/W Plant. Workshops to move the process along will take place throughout the coming year.

As you may have noticed, the skatepark across from the Veterans' Hall has been torn down. This was due to ongoing deterioration of the facility, increasing cost of maintenance and not much use by the local youth. Facilities and Resources Supervisor Carlos Mendoza has investigated options for this location, including a combined mini soccer/basketball court. Local contractors have already offered to provide their labor free of charge once the chosen project has been designed and permitted.

Discussion has begun between the San Simeon CSD and Cambria CSD in two areas. First, a plan has been proposed to pipe wastewater effluent from San Simeon to Cambria's W/W plant for processing and sending brine from our

"Emergency Water Facility" to San Simeon to be disposed of using their ocean outfall. This will require much permitting and planning, and environmental issues will need to be addressed before the project is even begun. Also, being considered even further down the road is the possibility of building a regional Sewer Treatment Plant to serve both communities.

Planning for the upcoming Town Hall meetings is still under way that will help define the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan for the District, and aid in determining the future of Cambria in the coming 5-10 years. We are encouraging the citizens of our town to become involved and participate in this process, and will let you know when meeting dates have been decided.

Finally, the District is seeking a experienced volunteer from our community to be a grant writer to assist in obtaining funding for various projects as they present themselves on the horizon. If interested, please contact General Manager John Weigold at: [jweigold@cambriacsd.org](mailto:jweigold@cambriacsd.org), or Board President Harry Farmer at: [farmer@cambriacsd.org](mailto:farmer@cambriacsd.org)

*Harry Farmer, CCSD Board President*